

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 OPR-02 EB-07 /113 W
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R 091022Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4817
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2279

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SU
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SUDAN - SPRING 1977

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REF: KHARTOUM 795 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SINCE LAST MARCH SITUATION IN SUDAN HAS BEEN
DOMINATED BY RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND GROWING LOCAL
CONCERN OVER ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA OF USSR AND ITS ALLIES.
THIS HAS RESULTED IN INTENSE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT BY SUDAN TO
HEAD OFF ADVANCES OF THIS GROUP WHOSE OBJECTIVES ARE SEEN

TO BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS TO NIMEIRI REGIME. IT ALSO LED TO
EXPULSION SOVIET ADVISORS. PARTLY AS RESULT FOREIGN THREAT,
NIMEIRI, FOLLOWING HIS INAUGURATION OF SECOND TERM AS
PRESIDENT, HAS MOVED TO NEUTRALIZE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION.
IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SUDAN HAS LAUNCHED NEW SIX-YEAR PLAN,
AND SEVERAL BRIGHT SIGNS ARE EVIDENT. HOWEVER, LARGE
SCALE SAUDI BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE HAS NOT
MATERIALIZED, AND PRESENT SITUATION APPEARS SERIOUS.
RELATIONS WITH US REMAIN WARM. HIGHLIGHT OF PERIOD WAS
VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG, WHO WAS TOLD SUDAN URGENTLY
NEEDS MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH IT HOPES BUY FROM US.
QUESTION OF USG WILLINGNESS SELL ARMS TO SUDAN REMAINS
THORNIEST PROBLEM IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE LAST MARCH (REFTEL) SUDAN'S RELATIONS WITH
ETHIOPIA HAVE BEEN PRINCIPAL ISSUE BEFORE NIMEIRI REGIME.
FOR SUDANGOV, ETHIOPIA PROBLEM EVELOPES BROAD SERIES OF
INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SECURITY ISSUES. BECAUSE OF TENSION
BETWEEN SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA, FORMER IS NOW DEEPLY INVOLVED
IN HORN WHICH IT RELATES TO RED SEA. MOREOVER, SUDAN IS
CONCERNED WITH SOVIET, CUBAN, LIBYAN AND ETHIOPIAN
COOPERATION THROUGHOUT AFRICA. BEHIND ERRATIC BEHAVIOR
OF LIBYA'S QADDHAFI OR ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU, SUDANGOV SEES
COLDLY CALCULATING SOVIET UNION WHOSE ULTIMATE AIM IS TO
TOPPLE NIMEIRI AND SADAT REGIMES AND DOMINATE AFRICA.

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2. IN FACE OF THIS PERCEIVED THREAT NIMEIRI HAS TAKEN
INITIATIVE AND DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS HE AND HIS
LIEUTENANTS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE. NIMEIRI VISITED
OMAN, ADEN AND MOGADISCIO AND THEN CONVENED FOUR POWER
(SUDAN, TWO YEMENS, SOMALIA) SUMMIT IN TA'IZ WHERE HE
ATTEMPTED, WITH MIXED RESULTS, TO GAIN CLOSER COOPERATION
AND COORDINATION OF POOR SOUTH RED SEA STATES. HE
INDICATED LARGER RED SEA SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE LATER THIS
YEAR. NIMEIRI MADE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED AND APPARENTLY
SUCCESSFUL VISITS TO PARIS AND PEKING, AND ALSO MET IN
ALEXANDRIA WITH SADAT DURING PAST FOUR MONTHS. AT OAU
SUMMIT IN LIBREVILLE HE MET MANY AFRICAN LEADERS. IN
ADDITION, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING
TO KENYA, ZAIRE, SOMALIA, NIGERIA, MOROCCO AND ELSEWHERE
AS SUDANGOV CONTINUES INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT AGAINST
USSR AND ITS ALLIES. MOST DRAMATIC MOVE IN THIS REGARD WAS
SUDDEN EXPULSION OF ALL SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS AND ABOUT
HALF OF SOVIET EMBASSY STAFF, AS NIMEIRI CONCLUDED SOVIETS
HERE WERE ACTIVELY ASSISTING LIBYANS AND ETHIOPIANS AGAINST
SUDAN.

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4818
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 2279

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

3. PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF INCREASED FOREIGN THREAT NIMEIRI
MOVED TO NEUTRALIZE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION. AT HIS INAUGURATION
FOR SECOND TERM AS PRESIDENT MAY 24 HE INVITED OPPONENTS TO
RETURN HOME. SINCE THEN HE HAS BEGUN TO RELEASE POLITICAL

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PRISONERS AND HAS TAKEN OTHER STEPS WHICH INDICATE HIS SERIOUS INTENTION TO BURY HATCHET AND BRING KEY OPPOSITION FIGURES IN FROM COLD. SOME INTERNAL PROBLEMS PERSIST. TRIBAL OR RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE ERUPTED IN SOUTHERN KORDOFAN AND NORTHERN DARFUR IN JUNE. SO FAR THESE APPEAR TO BE ISOLATED INCIDENTS, BUT SUDANGOV HAS BEEN CONCERNED THAT DITS FOREIGN ENEMIES WILL ATTEMPT STIR UP LATENT TRIBAL OR ETHNIC HOSTILITIES WITHIN SUDAN.

4. TRIBAL PROBLEMS CAN BE TRACED AT LEAST PARTIALLY TO NAGGING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES SUCH AS DROUGHT. IN SOUTHERN SUDAN THERE HAS BEEN CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF FUNDS IN SOME PLACES WITH RESULT THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS HAVE GONE WEEKS WITHOUT PAY. SIMILARLY AT NATIONAL LEVEL ANTICIPATED SAUDI BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE STILL HAS FAILED TO MATERIALIZE WITH RESULT THAT SUDANGOV FACES SERIOUS INABILITY MEET ITS PAYMENTS. HIGH PRICES AND SHORTAGES OF CONSUMER GOODS CONTINUE PLAGUE ECONOMY. IRONICALLY, DESPITE THESE DEPRESSING DEVELOPMENTS, SOME BRIGHT NEWS ALSO EXISTS. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY GOOD THIS YEAR, AND SEVERAL IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE OR INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED INCLUDING MAJOR RECOMMITMENT BY KUWAITIS TO SUPPORT GIANT KENANA SUGAR SCHEME. SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT ALSO EVIDENT REGARDING ARAB AUTHORITY FOR AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. ON JULY 1 NEW SIX-YEAR PLAN BEGAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED. THUS SUDANESE ECONOMY REMAINS CURIOUS AMALGAM OF GRIM PRESENT REALITY AND BRIGHT FUTURE PROMISE WITH LATTER CONTINUING ATTRACT INCREASING NUMER US BUSINESSMEN TO COUNTRY DESPITE FORMER.

5. BUSINESSMEN REFLECT CONTINUING WARM BILATERAL RELATIONS. AS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLDED DURING SPRING, USG COULD SEE THAT RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF SUDAN WAS
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INCREASING AND RELATIONS WHOULD BE STRENGTHENED. ATTITUDE WAS SYMBOLIZED BY VISIT OF US AMBASSADOR YOUNG WHICH HAPPILY FOR SUDANGOV COINCIDED WITH NIMEIRI'S INAUGURATION CEREMONY. SUDANESE LEADERS EXPRESSED SOME IMPATIENCE WITH SLOWNESS OF AID PROGRAM HERE, BUT OVERALL WERE PLEASED WITH US-SUDAN RELATIONS. CARTER ADMINISTRATION ATTITUDE TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS AND ITS POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST APPLAUDED BY SUDANESE LEADERS AND PUBLIC ALIKE. HOWEVER, SUDANESE FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND APPARENT PASSIVE REACTION OF USG TO WHAT THEY SEE AS OBVIOUS AND BLATANT SOVIET ATTEMPT GRAB AFRICA. MOREOVER, SUDANGOV FEELS DIRECTLY THREATENED AND THEREFORE URGENTLY WISHES BUY DEFENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM US. VISIT OF USAF TEAM TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF C-130 SALE WAS GRATIFYING, BUT NIMEIRI AND OTHER LEADERS ALSO WISH BUY F-5 INTERCEPTORS

AND OTHER DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT. SO FAR USG HAS NOT DECIDED
WHETHER SUCH SALES SHOULD BE MADE, AND AS SUMMER BEGINS
(AND ON EVE ARRIVAL NEW AMBASSADOR) US MILITARY SALES
POLICY REMAINS SINGLE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE IN OUR RELATIONS
WITH SUDAN. BOGOSIAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
To: STATE
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